

2025

State of New Jersey Manufacturing

Industry Report

About NJMEP	3
Manufacturing Observations	5
Top 9 Trends	6
Impacts by Manufacturing Cluster	9
Manufacturing in New Jersey	12
Manufacturing Sectors	14
Advanced Manufacturing	15
Veterans in Manufacturing	21
Life Sciences	23
Transportation Logistics & Distribution	26





ABOUT NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PROGRAM (NJMEP)

OUR MISSION: YOUR RESOURCE

The New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program has been the State's premier training and consulting provider for over 20 years, offering the latest innovations in technology, standards, and practices. Our mission is to help New Jersey's small to medium-sized manufacturing businesses access the resources and develop the skills they need to grow, innovate, and expand. Our network, tailored solutions, and engineering know-how give manufacturers the resources they need to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving market.

We offer a full range of consulting and training services that help evolve your organization into an innovative, market-driven, and more cost-effective operation. These services allow you to reduce costs, increase revenue, and unlock your employees' full potential.

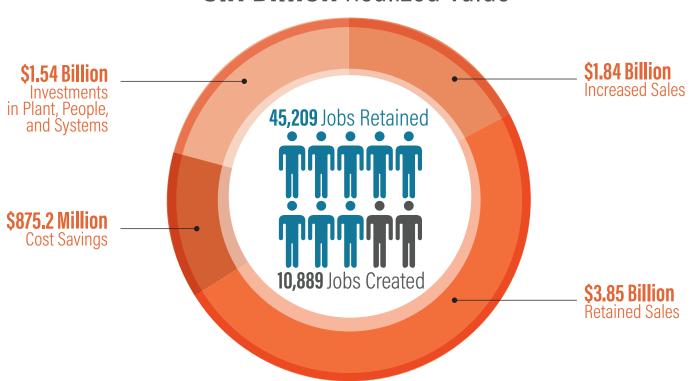
SEAMLESS INTEGRATION

When you enlist our services, NJMEP will manage your project from beginning to completion by coordinating our dedicated team and our expansive network of expert resources, while ensuring the project meets your expectations. Our team provides opportunities for your input, regular updates on your project's status, and measurable results throughout the project lifecycle. We work directly with you and your team to ensure your complete satisfaction.

MEASURABLE IMPACT

For over twenty years, NJMEP has helped manufacturers become more productive, profitable, and globally competitive. NJMEP's impact is measured by an independent, third-party entity that collects your feedback once a project is completed. Since 2000, NJMEP has helped clients realize nearly \$8 billion in value.

Since 2000, NJMEP has helped manufacturers actualize more than **\$8.11 Billion** Realized Value



State of New Jersey

Manufacturing

Observations



OBSERVATIONS

As manufacturers look back on the past year and ahead to what's next, it's clear that adaptability remains critical in an industry shaped by shifting global dynamics. Trade uncertainty and evolving tariff policies are once again at the forefront, prompting many manufacturers to reevaluate sourcing strategies and accelerate reshoring efforts. These shifts—while disruptive—are intended to fuel new investment in domestic production capabilities and encourage more control over supply chains.

At the same time, AI continues to evolve at a rapid pace, moving from experimental implementation to becoming a practical tool for boosting efficiency, improving quality, and forecasting market shifts. The technology's impact is being felt across operations, from the shop floor to the supply chain.

Workforce challenges remain a top concern, but there are bright spots: an increased focus on skilled trade education, flexible training pathways, and new tools to engage the next generation of workers. While supply chain pressures persist, particularly in specialized sectors, manufacturers are taking proactive steps to mitigate disruptions and build long-term resilience.

The manufacturing landscape in 2025 is complex. Navigating uncertainty, embracing technology, and investing in people will remain the keys to long-term success.

9 TRENDS WITH A DIRECT IMPACT ON NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing continues to stand at the intersection of global disruption and economic innovation. As one of the first sectors to feel the effects of shifting trade policy, technological advancement, and labor force evolution, New Jersey manufacturers are navigating a landscape that is rapidly transforming beneath their feet. While several of the trends identified in recent years still apply, the realities within each have shifted significantly. From renewed tariff activity and supply chain recalibration to Al's swift integration into production and operations, 2025 is shaping up to be a defining year for the industry. To remain competitive and build resilience, New Jersey manufacturers must take a closer look at the nine most pressing areas that are actively shaping outcomes and guiding strategic decisions across the Garden State's manufacturing ecosystem.



Safety and Training

Safety remains a cornerstone of manufacturing, and in 2025, it's being reinforced through smarter, more accessible training. As technology evolves, so does the need for workers to be trained in both foundational practices and advanced systems. State-of-the-art facilities like the Workforce Training Room in Cedar Knolls, New Jersey continue to provide hands-on experience with conventional and next-generation tools. Initiatives like the New Jersey Defense Manufacturing Community Consortium (NJDMCC) are helping offset training costs—particularly for veterans and transitioning workers—while promoting high standards across the industry. Additionally, mobile training labs are expanding access statewide, delivering expert-led, on-site instruction without disrupting operations. These flexible resources are proving essential in keeping teams safe, skilled, and ready for what's next.

Clean Energy

New Jersey's clean energy ambitions continue to create opportunities for manufacturers across the state. Following Ørsted's exit in 2024, momentum quickly shifted with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities awarding over 3,700 MW in offshore wind capacity to Invenergy and energyRE's Leading Light Wind Project and Attentive Energy LLC's Attentive Energy Two Project. These awards—alongside the Atlantic Shores 1,509.6 MW project—represent steps toward achieving a 100% clean energy economy by 2035. Beyond offshore wind, clean energy initiatives are expanding across solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency upgrades, creating a ripple effect throughout New Jersey's industrial landscape. Developers are continuing to work with NJMEP to strengthen local supply chains and ensure that small- to midsized manufacturers have a clear path to participate in and profit from this energy transition.

Supply Chain

While the shockwaves from COVID-19 have faded, supply chain instability remains a central concern—driven now by persistent geopolitical tensions, fluctuating trade policies, and rising transportation costs. From Red Sea shipping disruptions to continued unrest in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, global dependencies are becoming increasingly risky. In response, manufacturers are shifting strategies from reaction to reinforcement. Reshoring and nearshoring efforts are accelerating, with companies seeking greater control over their inputs by identifying domestic suppliers and investing in local partnerships. Programs like Supplier Scouting Support are helping New Jersey manufacturers diversify sourcing and reduce reliance on volatile global channels.



Economic Volatility

In 2025, economic uncertainty remains a defining challenge for manufacturers. While inflation has cooled from its peak, core costs, especially in energy, services, and logistics, continue to strain operations. The Federal Reserve's cautious stance on interest rates has kept borrowing costs elevated, making capital investments more difficult for small- and mid-sized businesses. At the same time, shifts in consumer behavior and slower global growth are contributing to inconsistent demand across sectors. Manufacturers must remain nimble, balancing cost containment with the need for innovation and workforce investment. Strategic planning, scenario forecasting, and maintaining financial flexibility are more critical than ever as businesses navigate an economy that's steady—but far from stable.

Cybersecurity

Cybersecurity is no longer optional for manufacturers—it's a frontline business requirement. With cyberattacks growing more targeted and complex, manufacturers are facing heightened pressure to safeguard their operations, intellectual property, and customer data. In 2025, this urgency is amplified by the anticipated enforcement of CMMC 2.0 requirements across the Department of Defense supply chain, which could sideline non-compliant businesses from federal contracts. Beyond defense, changes in cyber insurance policies are raising the stakes. Premiums are climbing, coverage is narrowing, and underwriters are demanding proof of robust cybersecurity practices. Manufacturers must take a proactive, integrated approach to cybersecurity to remain competitive and resilient in today's digital environment.



Trade Policy & Tariffs

Trade policy remains a moving target in 2025, with manufacturers caught in the crosshairs of shifting tariffs and global realignments. Ongoing tensions with China, unstable trade relationships in the Middle East, and upcoming U.S. trade policy decisions are creating an environment of uncertainty. Tariffs on critical inputs—especially metals, electronics, and advanced components—continue to impact pricing, planning, and competitiveness. As a result, manufacturers are reassessing their international exposure and seeking ways to diversify sourcing, explore domestic alternatives, and safeguard margins. While some trade shifts offer new opportunities for domestic producers, inconsistent enforcement and unclear timelines make long-term planning difficult. Staying informed and building flexibility into supply strategies are now essential for managing trade risk in a volatile geopolitical climate.



Workforce

The manufacturing workforce challenge remains a defining issue—but the conversation is shifting. As reshoring accelerates and sectors like clean energy expand, the demand for skilled labor continues to grow. At the same time, Generation Z is showing renewed interest in hands-on careers, especially when exposed to pathways like industry certifications, apprenticeships, and advanced training. Programs like NJMEP and NJEDA's Future Makers and Creators Tour are actively bridging the awareness gap—bringing immersive, tech-forward manufacturing experiences to schools in all 21 counties. These efforts are sparking curiosity and changing perceptions of modern manufacturing careers. Long-term success will depend on how effectively manufacturers engage the next generation, invest in upskilling, and build meaningful career paths to retain talent in an increasingly competitive labor market.



AI, Automation, & Advanced MFG

Al and automation are no longer emerging trends; they're reshaping the way manufacturers operate in real time. In 2025, more companies are integrating intelligent systems to improve productivity, reduce downtime, and enhance quality control. From predictive maintenance and computer vision systems to generative design and real-time process monitoring, the use of smart manufacturing tools is accelerating across sectors. Industrial robot installations continue to rise, not just in automotive and electronics, but also among small- to mid-sized manufacturers as more modular, cost-effective automation becomes accessible. Meanwhile, Al is being deployed not only to streamline production, but also to empower the workforce—enhancing decision-making, safety, and output without replacing human talent.

In New Jersey, state-level investment in AI is gaining momentum. Governor Murphy's "AI Moonshot" initiative is bringing together leading institutions like Rutgers, Bell Labs, and Princeton to position the Garden State at the forefront of AI research and application.



Sustainability

Sustainability is no longer just a regulatory checkbox—it's a business imperative. In 2025, manufacturers are embracing sustainable practices not only to meet Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) requirements but to drive efficiency, cut costs, and appeal to increasingly eco-conscious customers and clients. With new laws mandating ESG reporting and growing pressure from supply chain partners and investors, transparency and accountability are now built into the manufacturing playbook. Companies are investing in energy-efficient equipment, waste reduction systems, and circular economy models that transform sustainability from an obligation into a source of long-term value. In New Jersey, where clean energy goals and environmental policy remain a state priority, manufacturers that integrate sustainability into their operations are better positioned to secure contracts, attract talent, and future-proof their businesses.

https://www.nj.gov/bpu/newsroom/2024/approved/20240124.html

https://www.federal reserve.gov/monetary policy/files/fomc projtabl 20250319.pdf? ftag=MSFd61514ft

https://www.nist.gov/mep/cybersecurity-resources-manufacturers

https://dodcio.defense.gov/cmmc/About/

https://research.aimultiple.com/manufacturing-ai/

https://ifr.org/ifr-press-releases/news/u.s-companies-invest-heavily-in-robots

https://nam.org/workforce-solutions/

https://www.epa.gov/sustainability/sustainable-manufacturing









New Jersey Manufacturing Impacts by Cluster

MANUFACTURING¹

Employees

236,000

\$52.6B

Average Wage \$74,000*

STEM/TECHNOLOGY 3

Employees

207,800

N/A

Average Wage \$156,300

LIFE SCIENCES²

Employees

88,000

N/A

Average Wage

\$186,600

TRANSPORTATION, LOGISTICS & DISTRIBUTION (TLD) 4

Employees

451,900

\$72.4B

Average Wage **\$84,400**

https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-22%20LMS_Manufacturing.pd/

NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

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This report is compiled using data provided by the NJ DoL. NJMEP and NJ DoL worked together to provide the most complete report available on the New Jersey manufacturing industry.

State of New Jersey Manufacturing in New Jersey

NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURERS BY FEDERAL DISTRICT

District	Senate	House	Counties	Employees-EST
State	Andy Kim			
State	Cory Booker			
1		Donald Norcross	Camden, Gloucester, Burlington	54,883
2		Jeff Van Drew	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem, Ocean	40,025
3		Herbert Conaway	Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth	51,986
4		Christopher Smith	Ocean, Monmouth	24,744
5		Josh Gottheimer	Sussex, Passaic, Bergen	72,908
6		Frank Pallone	Monmouth, Middlesex, Atlantic	65,870
7		Thomas Kean Jr.	Hunterdon, Morris, Warren, Somerset, Sussex, Union	97,081
8		Robert Menendez Jr.	Essex, Hudson, Union	64,435
9		Nellie Pou	Bergen, Hudson, Passaic	84,320
10		LaMonica McIver	Union, Essex, Hudson	65,435
11		Mikie Sherrill	Essex, Morris, Passaic	81,034
12		Bonnie Watson Coleman	Middlesex, Mercer, Somerset, Union	113,927
			Direct Employment*	363,171

Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data County Breakdown for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, May 1, 2025 - https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-22%20LMS_Manufacturing.pdf, https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-19%20LMS_Warehousing. pdf Total Manufacturing Employment is a combination of manufacturing, food manufacturing, chemical, computer and electronic product manufacturing, fabricated metal products, and medical device



Potential Shift from OSW to All Things Green

In 2025, New Jersey's clean energy vision is evolving. While offshore wind remains a cornerstone of the state's energy strategy, with projects like Atlantic Shores, Leading Light Wind, and Attentive Energy Two still moving forward, there is growing momentum behind a broader mix of renewable and low-carbon energy sources.

Following the volatility in offshore wind development, the state is expanding its focus to include nuclear, geothermal, and other green energy technologies that can provide long-term energy security and economic opportunity. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBPU) and the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) are exploring diversified clean energy pathways, including advanced small modular nuclear reactors, enhanced geothermal systems, and expanded solar deployment—all aligned with New Jersey's goal of reaching 100% clean energy by 2035.

For manufacturers, this expanded portfolio presents new opportunities to support emerging industries. Whether through component production, supply chain support, or workforce upskilling, local businesses are well-positioned to play a key role in building the infrastructure for New Jersey's next-generation energy systems.

NJMEP continues to partner with energy developers and state agencies to ensure manufacturers are equipped to engage with these evolving sectors—offering technical assistance, training support, and supplier connections to help small and mid-sized manufacturers thrive in a rapidly changing energy landscape.

As the clean energy conversation broadens, so does the economic potential. From power generation to grid modernization, New Jersey's all-of-the-above approach is fueling innovation and ensuring that manufacturers are at the heart of the state's sustainable energy future.

https://www.njeda.gov/clean-energy/

NEW JERSEY MANUFACTURERS BY STATE DISTRICT

District	Senate	Assembly	Assembly	Counties	Employers EST Per District*	Employees-EST Per District
1	Michael L. Testa Jr.	Antwan McClellan	Erik K. Simonsen	Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland	456	15,520
2	Vince J. Polistina	Claire Swift	Donald A. Guardian	Atlantic	88	2,999
3	John Burizchelli	Heather Simmons	Dave Bailey	Cumberland, Gloucester, Salem	787	26,771
4	Paul Moriarty	Dan Hutchinson	Cody Miller	Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester	1,007	34,244
5	Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez	William F. Moen Jr.	William W. Spearman	Camden, Gloucester	919	31,245
6	James Beach	Louis D. Greenwald	Melinda Kane	Burlington, Camden	1,231	41,868
7	Troy Singleton	Herb Conway Jr.	Carol A. Murphy	Burlington	695	23,638
8	Latham Tiver	Michael Torrissi Jr.	Andrea Katz	Atlantic and Burlington	783	26,637
9	Carmen Amato	Gregory Myhre	Brian E. Rumpf	Ocean	270	9,185
10	James W. Holzapfel	Paul Kanitra	Gregory P. McGuckin	Monmouth and Ocean	728	24,744
11	Vin Gopal	Margie Donlon	Luanne Peterpaul	Monmouth	458	15,559
12	Owen Henry	Robert D. Clifton	Alex Sauickie	Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean	2,815	95,694
13	Declan J. O'Scanlon	Victoria A. Flynn	Gerard Scharfenberger	Monmouth	458	15,559
14	Linda R. Greenstein	Tennille McCoy	Wayne P. DeAngelo	Mercer, Middlesex	1,768	60,101
15	Shirley K. Turner	Verlina Reynolds-Jackson	Anthony S. Verrelli	Hunterdon, Mercer	469	15,939
16	Andrew Zwicker	Roy Freiman	Mitchelle Drulis	Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset	2,665	90,602
17	Bob Smith	Joseph Danielsen	Kevin Egan	Middlesex, Somerset	2,196	74,663
18	Patrick J. Diegnan Jr.	Robert J. Karabinchak	Sterley S. Stanley	Middlesex	1,392	47,312
19	Joseph F. Vitale	Craig J. Coughlin	Yvonne Lopez	Middlesex	1,392	47,312
20	Joseph P. Cryan	Reginald W. Atkins	Annette Quijano	Union	779	26,475
21	Jon M. Bramnick	Michele Matsikoudis	Nancy F. Munoz	Middlesex, Morris, Somerset, Union	3,890	132,274
22	Nicholas P. Scutari	Linda S. Carter	James J. Kennedy	Somerset and Union	1,583	53,826
23	Doug Steinhardt	John DiMaio	Erik Peterson	Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren	1,063	36,139
24	Parker Space	Dawn Fantasia	Michael Inganamort	Morris, Sussex, Warren	1,180	40,105
25	Anthony M. Bucco	Christian Barranco	Arua K. Dunn	Morris, Passaic	1,671	56,817
26	Joseph Pennacchio	Brian Bergen	Jay Webber	Morris, Passaic	1,671	56,817
27	John McKeon	Alixon Collazos-Gil	Rosy Bagolie	Essex, Passaic	1,468	49,898
28	Renee C. Burgess	Garnet R. Hall	Cleopatra G. Tucker	Essex, Union	1,491	50,692
29	M. Teresa Ruiz	Eliana Pintor Marin	Shanique Speight	Essex, Hudson	1,146	38,960
30	Robert W. Singer	Sean T. Kean	Alexander Schnall	Monmouth, Ocean	728	24,744
31	Angela McKnight	William B. Sampson IV	Barbara McCann Stamato	Hudson	434	14,743
32	Raj Mukherji	Jessica Ramirez	John Allen	Hudson	434	14,743
33	Brain P. Stack	Gabriel Rodriguez	Julio Marenco	Hudson	434	14,743
34	Britnee Timberlake	Michael Venezia	Carmen Morales	Essex	712	24,217
35	Benjie Wimberly	Shavonda E. Sumter	Al Abdelaziz	Bergen, Passaic	2,046	69,577
36	Paul A. Sarlo	Clinton Calabrese	Gary S. Schaer	Bergen, Passaic	2,046	69,577
37	Gordon M. Johnson	Ellen J. Park	Shama A. Haider	Bergen	1,291	43,896
38	Joseph A. Lagana	Lisa Swain	P. Christopher Tully	Bergen	1,291	43,896
39	Holly T. Schepisi	Robert Auth	John Azzariti	Bergen	1,291	43,896
40	Kristin M. Corrado	Christoper P. DeFillips	Al Barlas	Bergen, Essex, Passaic	2,759	93,794
					10,682	363,171

Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data County Breakdown for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, May 1, 2025 - https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormar-ketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-19%20LMS_Manufacturing.pdf, https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-19%20LMS_Warehousing.pdf Employment numbers are a combination of manufacturing, food manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, computer and electronic product manufacturing, fabricated metal product manufacturing, and medical device manufacturing as outlined in the latest report available by the NJDoL. *Employers Per district estimate is based off an average of 34 employees per manufacturing facility

State of New Jersey Manufacturing Sectors



Advanced Manufacturing

The advanced manufacturing landscape is evolving faster than ever and in 2025, it's no longer a question of if manufacturers will adopt new technologies, but how soon they can do so competitively. The dramatic decline in the cost of collaborative robotic systems (cobots), sensors, and data-driven platforms has opened the door for small-and mid-sized manufacturers to embrace innovation at scale¹.

Collaborative robots are now among the most accessible tools in the advanced manufacturing toolbox. Safer, easier to program, and more cost-effective than traditional industrial robots, cobots are being deployed on shop floors to assist with repetitive tasks, precision assembly, and even training. Their ability to work side-by-side with humans is transforming productivity and expanding capacity without increasing headcount.

Meanwhile, artificial intelligence continues to enhance predictive maintenance and quality control, while retrofitting legacy machinery with smart sensors has become both technically simple and financially viable². Manufacturers are not just collecting data, they're using it to make smarter, faster decisions that improve throughput and reduce waste.

In New Jersey, these innovations are being adopted not just by large manufacturers,

but by small operations seeking to stay competitive in a challenging market. The rise of modular, scalable solutions means advanced manufacturing is no longer reserved for global enterprises—it's becoming the new standard for those prepared to lead.

- https://ifr.org/ifr-press-releases/news/how-robots-work-alongside-humans
- $2. \qquad \text{https://www.nist.gov/programs-projects/smart-manufacturing-operations-planning-and-control-program} \\$

New Jersey's manufacturing industry continues to play a central role in the state's economy—both in terms of economic output and employment. As illustrated in the top half of the graph, the total GDP generated by New Jersey's manufacturing sector has remained relatively stable over the past two decades, with notable dips during the Great Recession (2007–2009) and the COVID-19 pandemic. However, recent years show a strong recovery, particularly in high-growth sectors like computer and electronic products.

Two key manufacturing segments stood out in 2023:

Chemical manufacturing, which contributed \$26 billion to New Jersey's economy—5.8% of the national total from this segment—making it the largest single contributor to the state's manufacturing GDP¹.

Computer and electronic products manufacturing, which has seen explosive growth over time. The industry increased its GDP contribution 15-fold from just \$357 million in 1997 to \$5.5 billion in 2023, reflecting the rise of high-tech manufacturing in the state!

On the employment side,

manufacturing employed approximately 252,000 New Jersey residents in 2024, making up 5.6% of the state's total workforce². The sector also paid out over \$24.3 billion in total wages last year².

Notably:

Chemical manufacturing accounts for the largest share of employment (19.5%), reinforcing its importance not just in GDP terms but also as a workforce anchor².

Food manufacturing comes in second (15.6%), reflecting the state's longstanding strength in food processing and production².

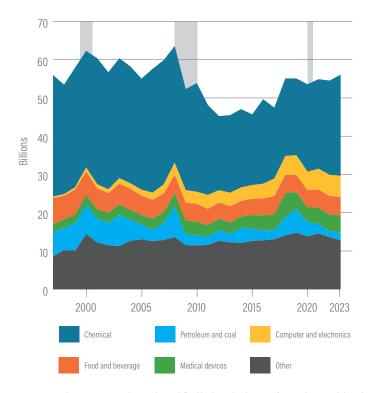
Computer and electronic products represent 10.4% of manufacturing employment—domanstrating the poster's graving appropria

demonstrating the sector's growing economic footprint, even with a more specialized workforce².

Supporting this growth, New Jersey invested \$14.8 million in workforce development programs such as registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, and work-based learning in 2023³.

- https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/ assets/PDFs/pub/empecon/advmfg.pdf
- 2 https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/ industry-snapshots/Manufacturing.pdf
- 3 https://www.nj.gov/labor/research-info/grants.shtml

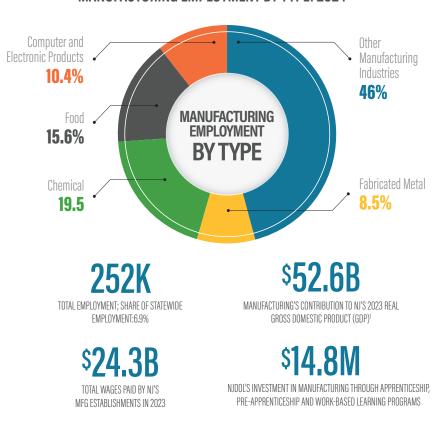
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT BY MANUFACTURING SEGMENT NEW JERSEY: 1997-2023



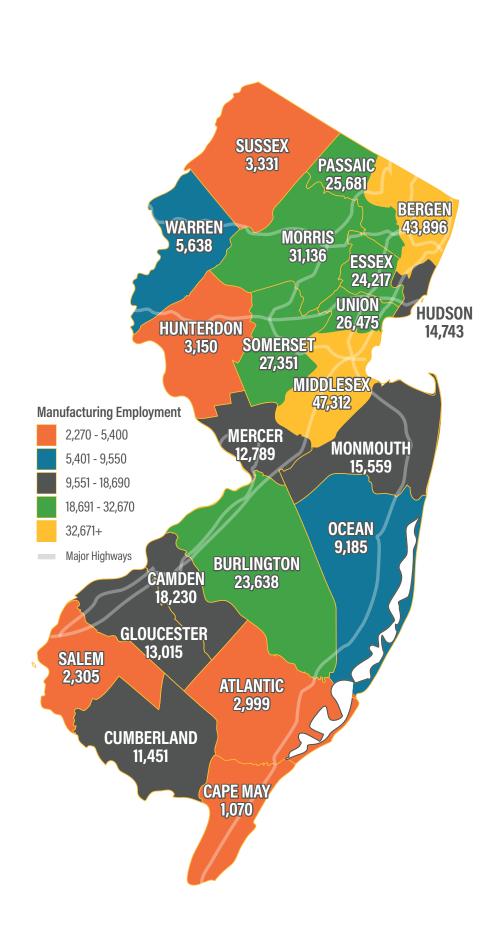
Gray area denotes U.S. economic recession as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

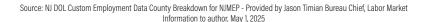
Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT BY TYPE: 2024



Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total of value goods produced and services performed adjusted for factors like inflation Source: https://www.ni.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-22%20LMS Manufacturing.pdf







Manufacturing employment in New Jersey remains highly concentrated in the state's most populous counties and along the Interstate 95 corridor, which offers direct access to regional, national, and global markets. While urban centers and transportation hubs dominate in raw employment numbers, manufacturing plays a critical role in rural counties, where it often comprises a larger portion of total private-sector employment.

According to 2023 data from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL), Middlesex County leads the state in manufacturing employment with 46,898 jobs, followed by Bergen County (42,299) and Morris County (30,133). These counties anchor major industrial parks, pharmaceutical production centers, and advanced manufacturing hubs.

However, Cumberland County stands out for a different reason—one in six jobs in the county is in manufacturing, the highest ratio of any county in New Jersey. Similarly, Passaic and Warren Counties maintain manufacturing as a significant percentage of total private-sector employment, despite lower absolute numbers.

New Jersey continues to offer strategic advantages for manufacturers:

- Access to 40% of the U.S. population within a day's drive.
- A diverse, highly educated labor pool supporting all sectors of the manufacturing value chain.
- A comprehensive transportation infrastructure, connecting companies to ports, airports, and overland freight systems.

Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Heport for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

SUBSECTOR DETAILS OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS AND EMPLOYMENT

Food manufacturing added nearly 4,000 jobs and 190
establishments between 2018 and 2023, with slightly
smaller facility sizes—indicating growth in specialized
or niche production, particularly across counties like
Bergen and Camden.

Chemical manufacturing saw the largest growth from 2018 to 2023, adding nearly 6,850 jobs and 263 establishments, with expansion concentrated along the Route 1 corridor in Middlesex, Somerset, and Union Counties, likely driven by an increase in smaller-scale specialized facilities.

Computer and electronic product manufacturing added over 2,100 jobs and expanded its number of establishments between 2018 and 2023, with strongholds in Bergen, Camden, and Morris Counties where advanced production and R&D thrive within broader innovative ecosystems.

Fabricated metal manufacturing remained stable from 2018 to 2023, with modest employment changes and continued concentration along transit corridors near Philadelphia and New York City, benefiting from access to major buyers and skilled labor.

Medical device manufacturing saw a decline of 1,200 jobs between 2018 and 2023 despite an increase in establishments, likely due to consolidation or automation, with Bergen County remaining a key center for the industry.

	Establishments	Employment	Employment Per Establishment			
	Establishmonts	Employmont	Lotabilorimone			
Food Manufa	cturing					
2018	1,218	35,579	29			
2023	1,408	39,337	28			
Change	+190	+3,910	-1			
Chemical Ma	nufacturing					
2018	854	42,479	50			
2023	1,117	49,328	44			
Change	+263	+6,849	-6			
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing						
2018	674	24,097	36			
2023	793	26,255	33			
Change	+119	+2,158	-3			
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing						
2018	1,135	21,769	19			
2023	1,157	21,446	19			
Change	+22	-323	-1			
Medical Device Manufacturing						
2018	368	12,177	33			
2023	408	10,971	27			
Change	+40	-1,206	-6			

Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

Key Occupations include:

Dental Laboratory Technicians

Electrical and Electronic Assemblers	Inspectors and Testers	Packaging Machine Operators
Electrical Engineers	Inspectors, Testers, and Sorters	Project Management Specialists
Food Batchmakers	Machinists	Shipping and Receiving Clerks
Food Scientists	Market Research Analysts	Software Developers
Fork Lift Operators	Mechanical Engineers	Structural Metal Fabricators
Industrial Engineers	Medical Appliance Technicians	Welders
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	Microbiologists	Wholesale Sales Representatives
	Electrical Engineers Food Batchmakers Food Scientists Fork Lift Operators Industrial Engineers	Electrical Engineers Inspectors, Testers, and Sorters Food Batchmakers Machinists Food Scientists Market Research Analysts Fork Lift Operators Mechanical Engineers Industrial Engineers Medical Appliance Technicians

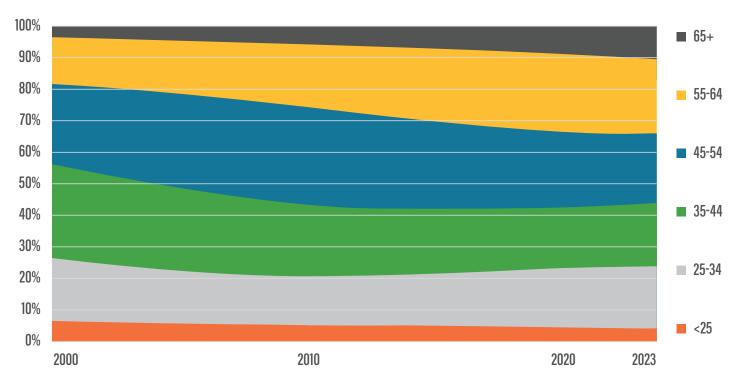
Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

Multiple Machine Operators

Industrial Production Managers

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES OF NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS WORKING IN ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

AGE OF MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE IN NEW JERSEY: 2000-2023







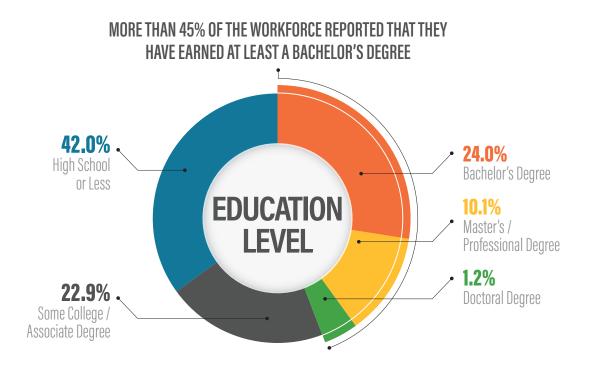
The share of older people (aged 65+) has tripled since 2020

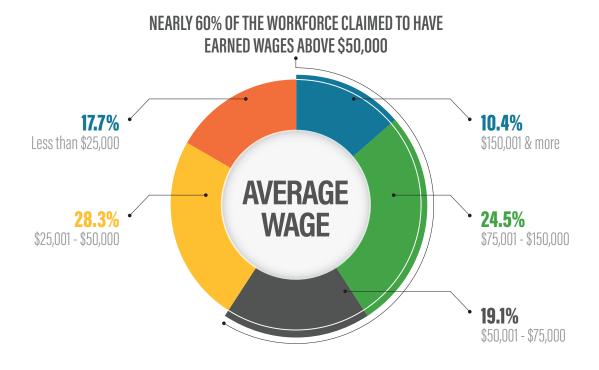


The number of younger people (aged <25) has been halved since 2020

OCCUPATION	2023 Employment	SHARE OF Industry	2023 Average Salary	MINIMUM EDUCATION
Total, All Manufacturing Occupations Top 10 Occupations	245,510 104,180	100.0% 42.4%	\$69,320	
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	11,230	4.6%	\$42,190	High school diploma or equivalent
Supervisors of Production Workers	9,670	3.9%	\$78,970	High school diploma or equivalent
Laborers of Freight and Stock	9,160	3.7%	\$40,620	No formal educational credential
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	6,900	2.8%	\$49,740	High school diploma or equivalent
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators	6,720	2.7%	\$42,940	High school diploma or equivalent
Packers and Packagers, Hand	6,330	2.6%	\$35,010	No formal educational credential
Electrical and Electronic Assemblers	5,360	2.2%	\$44,600	High school diploma or equivalent
Wholesale Sales Representatives	5,290	2.2%	\$94,330	High school diploma or equivalent
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	4,910	2.0%	\$67,050	High school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AVERAGE WAGE OF NJ RESIDENTS IN THE MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE





Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025



Veterans in Manufacturing

In 2025, veterans remain a highly skilled yet underutilized segment of New Jersey's workforce. Despite their unmatched discipline, adaptability, and technical potential, the state's veteran unemployment rate sits at 5.4%—nearly twice the national average of 3.0%, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This disparity highlights the urgent need to expand access to sustainable, meaningful careers for those who have served. Manufacturing offers a powerful solution. With thousands of unfilled positions across New Jersey, especially in technical and supervisory roles, veterans are uniquely equipped to thrive in this sector. Their experience aligns naturally with the structure, precision, and teamwork required in modern industrial environments. As the state works to close the veteran employment gap, manufacturing stands out as both an immediate opportunity and a long-term solution.

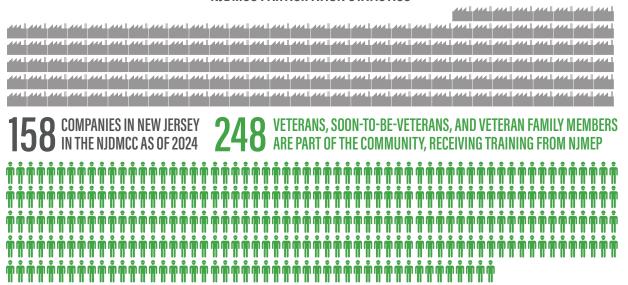
NJMEP, in partnership with the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), leads the charge through the New Jersey Defense Manufacturing Community Consortium (NJDMCC). In 2024, the initiative provided over 200 veterans, transitioning service members, and family members with no-cost certifications in areas such as Six Sigma, CNC operation, Augmented Arc Welding, and leadership development.

Nearly 150 manufacturers have now partnered with NJDMCC to build their teams

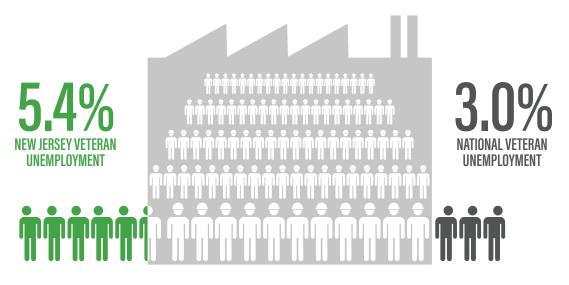
with skilled veterans, many of whom are advancing into supervisory or specialized technical roles. These efforts not only create meaningful careers for those who served but also bring resilience, precision, and accountability into the heart of New Jersey's manufacturing sector.

- https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.nr0.htm
- 2. https://www.nj.gov/labor/career-services/special-services/veterans/

NJDMCC PARTICIPATION STATISTICS



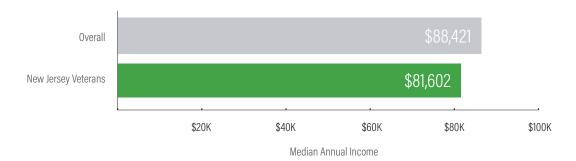
NEW JERSEY VS NATIONAL VETERAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2024



https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.t06A.htm

https://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.a.htm

IN NEW JERSEY VETERANS EARNED 10% LESS THAN THE MEDIAN ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN NEW JERSEY



Sources: https://veteransdata.info/states/2340000/NEW_JERSEY.pdf



Life Sciences Manufacturing

New Jersey's life sciences manufacturing sector remains a national powerhouse in 2025, driving innovation, employment, and economic output across the state. With a workforce of approximately 83,000 employees, the industry now accounts for 3.0% of the state's total employment—more than double the national average for this sector.¹ The state also boasts the highest concentration of scientists and engineers per square mile in the U.S., supporting a robust network of research institutions and production facilities.² From global leaders like Johnson & Johnson, Merck, and Bristol Myers Squibb to a rapidly growing base of small and mid-sized firms, New Jersey's life sciences sector is a critical player in cell and gene therapy, pharmaceuticals, and medical technologies. As demand grows for high-value, domestically produced therapeutics, the Garden State is well-positioned to lead the future of life sciences manufacturing.

 $^{1 \}qquad \text{https://www.cbre.com/insights/local-response/global-life-sciences-atlas-market-profiles-new-jersey} \\$

² https://choosenj.com/key-industries/life-sciences/

New Jersey remains one of the most concentrated and influential life sciences hubs in the United States—home to a dense ecosystem of pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device companies that collectively drive billions in economic impact.

Notable New Jersey highlights included:

- The life sciences sector supported nearly 90,000 jobs statewide and accounted for approximately 3% of all private-sector employment in New Jersey, more than double the national average¹.
- The industry also paid out over \$17 billion in total wages, with average annual earnings in life sciences roles topping \$86,000, among the highest across all sectors¹.

Life sciences employment and facilities cluster along the Route 1 innovation corridor and throughout Central and Northern New Jersey. Counties like Middlesex (12,133 jobs), Union (12,394), Somerset (10,733), and Morris (10,555) lead the state in employment, each exceeding 10,000 life sciences jobs¹. These regions benefit from decades of biopharma investment, access to a pipeline of STEM graduates, and the presence of both global headquarters and major R&D centers.

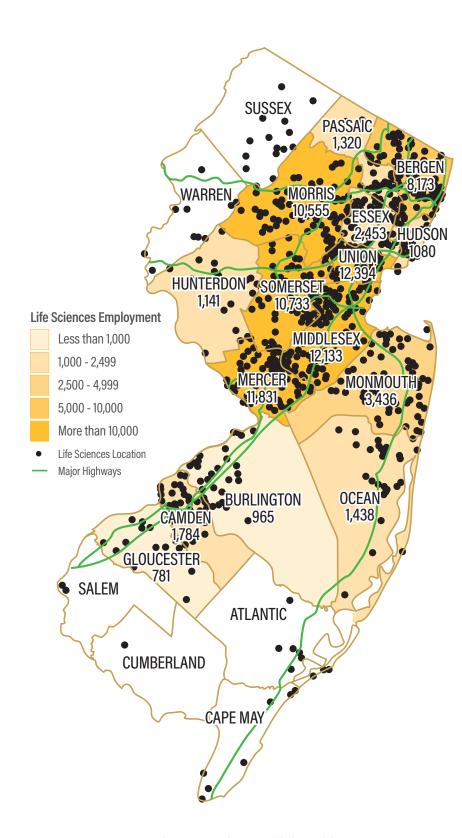
Meanwhile, Bergen, Mercer, and Monmouth Counties also feature prominently, bolstered by growing innovation parks, research hospitals, and advanced manufacturing facilities tied to the life sciences value chain.

Even in South and coastal New Jersey, where total employment numbers are lower, the distribution of life sciences establishments is notable. Counties like Camden, Ocean, and Burlington host dozens of smaller operations reflecting how the industry is expanding beyond traditional R&D hubs.

New Jersey remains:

- #1 in life sciences manufacturing employees per square mile
- #2 in total FDA-registered life sciences facilities
- #3 in the nation for employed biochemists and biophysicists²
- 1 hSource: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025
- 2 https://www.choosenj.com/key-industries/life-sciences/

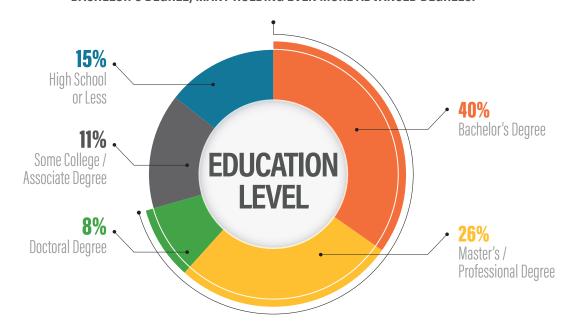
LIFE SCIENCES EMPLOYMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT LOCATIONS BY COUNTY, 2023

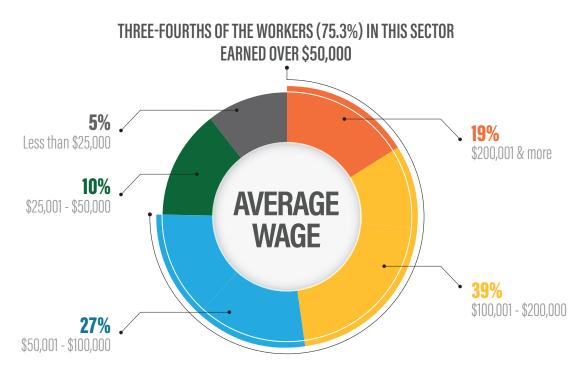


Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AVERAGE WAGE OF NJ RESIDENTS IN THE LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF NEW JERSEY'S WORKFORCE EMPLOYED IN THIS SECTOR HOLD AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE, MANY HOLDING EVEN MORE ADVANCED DEGREES.





 $Source: \textit{NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP-Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025 \\$



Transportation, Logistics, and Distribution

As global supply chains continue to evolve, transportation and logistics are becoming more than operational concerns—they're strategic levers for competitiveness. For New Jersey manufacturers, proximity to the Port of New York and New Jersey remains a major advantage. In 2024, the port retained its position as the East Coast's busiest and one of the most active in the U.S., with six container terminals and integrated freight rail connections supporting high-volume import and export activity¹.

However, reshoring and nearshoring trends are beginning to reshape how manufacturers think about shipping, receiving, and distribution. With businesses diversifying suppliers and shifting away from long, fragile international supply chains, domestic freight coordination, regional warehousing, and last-mile logistics have become top priorities. These shifts are being accelerated by renewed tariff pressures, which have raised the cost of importing critical materials and added complexity to international trade routes².

Rising shipping costs, driver shortages, and infrastructure bottlenecks are also pressuring companies to build more responsive, localized logistics networks. Manufacturers are increasingly investing in digital logistics tools—such as real-time shipment tracking, automated inventory management, and predictive delivery

scheduling—to navigate these complexities. At the same time, New Jersey's dense transportation infrastructure and access to major road, rail, air, and maritime corridors provide a unique advantage in adapting to these trends.

In 2025, the ability to adapt logistics strategies amid supply chain disruption will be essential. Manufacturers that can streamline distribution, reduce lead times, and remain agile in the face of shifting demand and trade policy changes will be best positioned to succeed in an increasingly regionalized and resilient economy.

- 1 https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/PR-19%20 LMS_Warehousing.pdf
- 2 https://www.bls.gov/cew/

NEW JERSEY'S WAREHOUSES, 2024

The map illustrates how New Jersey's highway system and rail lines support the warehousing sector. Easy access to major transportation routes to deliver goods domestically and a connection to the world marketplace through our ports **SUSSEX** makes the state an ideal location for warehousing operations. PASSAIC BERGEN WARREN MORRIS **HUDSON** HUNTERDON SOMERSE MDDLESEX MERCER MONMOUTH OCEAN BURLINGTON CAMDEN GLOUCESTER **SALEM ATLANŤIC CUMBERLAND** CAPE MAY

Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

New Jersey's TLD sector

continues to be a powerhouse of employment and economic activity, shaped by its proximity to major ports, dense highway networks, and a growing warehousing footprint. In 2025, warehousing and distribution operations remain heavily concentrated in the northeastern corridor of the state, with Middlesex, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, and Union counties continuing to lead in jobholding and facility density. These counties benefit from immediate access to global shipping routes, Class I rail lines, and the state's most critical interstate corridors'.

Southern New Jersey is experiencing notable expansion as companies seek more space and access to less congested transportation corridors. Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties have seen sustained investment due to their location near I-295, the NJ Turnpike, and the Ports of Camden and Paulsboro, providing efficient access to the Philadelphia metro market. This region remains vital for servicing mid-Atlantic supply chains while offering lower real estate costs and available labor!

Mercer County, once a smaller player in TLD employment, has emerged as a growing logistics hub thanks to its central location between New York and Philadelphia. Warehousing development has steadily increased, supporting the county's ongoing job growth in the sector².

Statewide, the wholesale trade sector remains a major contributor to employment. Bergen (15.4%), Middlesex (14.3%), and Morris (6.8%) counties continue to lead the way, driven by their roles in pharmaceutical, consumer goods, and chemical distribution. Combined, these counties represent over 36% of wholesale trade jobs in New Jersey.

Across the state, the clustering of warehouses along major freight corridors demonstrates the enduring strength of New Jersey's logistics infrastructure. The state's ability to support rapid goods movement—domestically and internationally—ensures TLD remains one of the most critical sectors supporting New Jersey's manufacturing and economic base.

Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025 New Jersey's Transportation, Logistics, and Distribution (TLD) cluster continues to expand as a backbone of the state's economy—fueled by its strategic location, growing e-commerce demand, and vital port infrastructure.

Private sector TLD employment has steadily increased over the past decade, with a notable surge since 2020. Employment in distribution and logistics has grown particularly fast, a reflection of New Jersey's central role in East Coast warehousing and fulfillment. The state's dense network of highways, Class I freight rail, and port terminals enables goods to flow efficiently to over 100 million consumers within a day's drive.

Infrastructure: Sea



Port of New York & New Jersey

The Port of NY/NJ remains a national leader—serving as the second busiest port in the country and the largest on the East Coast.

In 2022 alone:

- The port shattered records by handling over 9.49 million containers, representing a 27% increase over prepandemic volumes.
- Its activity supports more than 428,000 total jobs in New Jersey
- Generates nearly \$80 billion in business activity annually³

Port of Camden, Paulsboro & Salem

In South Jersey, the Ports of Camden, Paulsboro, and Salem continue to scale their role in maritime logistics and offshore wind supply chain development. Camden remains home to over 40 port-related businesses, while Paulsboro's \$250 million monopile manufacturing facility is positioning New Jersey as a central player in wind turbine infrastructure. The Port of Salem is also emerging as a hub for staging and assembly operations related to the East Coast's clean energy build-out.

Infrastructure: Land



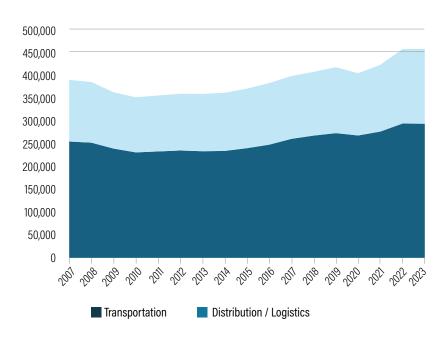
Meanwhile, New Jersey's 39,000 miles of roadways and 1,300+ miles of freight rail move more than 600 million tons of goods annually making TLD not just an industry, but a critical infrastructure system that supports nearly every sector in the state ⁴.

- 1 https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs. industry-snapshots/TransportationLogisticsDistribution.pdf
- 2 https://www.choosenj.com/key-industries/logistics/
- 3 https://www.panynj.gov/port/en/our-port.html
- 4 https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/freight/

The Transportation, Logistics & Distribution (TLD) cluster consists of two major components

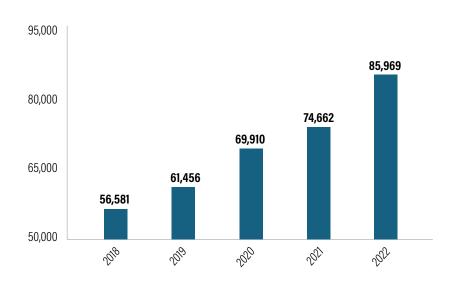
The transportation, logistics, and distribution industry cluster consists of industries within the wholesale trade, transportation, and warehousing sectors. For the sake of analysis, these industries can be further grouped by those related to **transportation** and those related to **logistics and distribution**.

NEW JERSEY'S TLD SECTOR EMPLOYMENT (PRIVATE SECTOR) 2007-2023



Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author. April 21, 2025

WAREHOUSING & STORAGE EMPLOYMENT



 $Source: https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-19\%20LMS_Warehousing.pdf$





TLD employed 12.5% of the state's private sector workers.



85.9K TOTAL EMPLOYMENT

Total employment increase since 2018: 51.9%



\$84,400 AVG WAGE

The annual average New Jersey private sector wage for TLD in 2019 was \$84,400. Total wages for the TLD cluster accounted for 12.7% of private sector wages statewide.





\$72.4 BILLION GDP (STATE)

In 2020, NJ had the sixth highest dollar amount per state nationwide. NJ accounted for four percent (4.03%) of the nation's GDP generated from TLD.

Infrastructure: Air



New Jersey's airport infrastructure continues to serve as a vital asset in both passenger travel and air cargo logistics, supporting regional connectivity and fueling billions in economic activity

Newark Liberty International Airport

Newark Liberty remains a key transportation and economic hub. With service from approximately 50 carriers—including United Airlines, one of the airport's largest employers—Newark Liberty also ranks among the top U.S. airports for cargo handling. In 2019, the airport moved nearly 825,000 tons of air cargo, ranking 14th nationally in landed cargo weight! The airport supports approximately 23,000 on-site jobs and contributes \$33.6 billion in annual economic activity, generating over 180,000 jobs and \$11 billion in wages across the broader metro region².

Teterboro Airport

This airport, which caters primarily to general and corporate aviation, continues to play a strategic role in the New York/New Jersey air network. It supports over 5,000 jobs, contributes \$1.2 billion in annual sales activity, and generates approximately \$362 million in wages annually³.

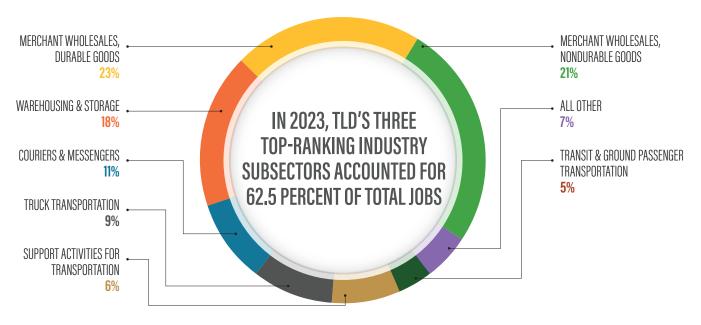
South Jersey

In South Jersey, Atlantic City International Airport is an essential hub for both commercial and government operations. It provides more than 7,700 jobs, supports \$678 million in regional economic activity, and is home to the William J. Hughes Technical Center—a national FAA facility conducting advanced research and development for the modernization of the National Airspace System (NextGen)⁴.

- 1 https://www.panynj.gov/content/dam/airports/statistics/statisticsgeneral-info/annual-atr/ATR2019.pdf
- 2 https://www.panynj.gov/airports/en/index.html
- 3 https://www.panynj.gov/content/dam/airports/statistics/statisticsgeneral-info/annual-atr/ATR_2024.pdf
- 4 https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/ang/offices/tc

TLD SECTOR: OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS

TLD SUBSECTORS BY EMPLOYMENT, PRIVATE 2023



Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21,

MOST PREVALENT OCCUPATIONS IN WAREHOUSING

OCCUPATION	EMPLOYMENT	AVERAGE SALARY
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	12,960	\$43,915
Stockers and Order Fillers	4,410	\$44,642
Industrial Truck and Forklift Operators	3,980	\$47,214
Supervisors of Transportation and Material-Moving Workers	2,770	\$71,499
Shipping, Receiving, and Inventory Clerks	2,240	\$42,551

Each of the top occupations in the warehousing industry plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth movement of goods through the supply chain, from receipt and storage to shipment to customers.

KEY SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS SOUGHT BY EMPLOYERS



Inventory Management



Communication



Order Picking



Lifting Ability

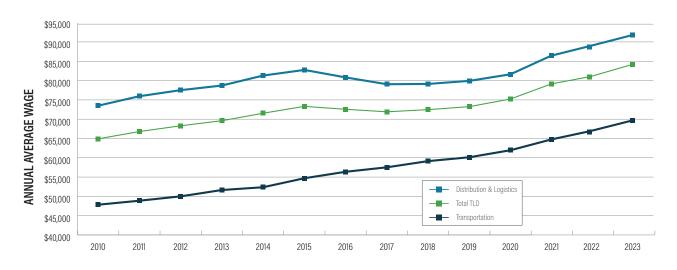


Packing and Labeling

Source: https://www.nj.gov/labor/labormarketinformation/assets/PDFs/pub/RP-19%20LMS Warehousing.pdf

TLD SECTOR: ANNUAL AVERAGE WAGE ANALYSIS

WAGES 2010-2023 DISTRIBUTION/LOGISTICS VS TRANSPORTATION



Overall, total TLD wages increased at an average of 2% year-to-year during the same period.

Annual wages in distribution/logistics industries have been significantly higher than those in transportation, however rates in transportation have grown faster (2.5% vs 1.8%)

Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025



31.1%
PERCENT OF US POPULATION THAT CAN BE ACCESSED WITHIN A DAY'S DRIVE OF NEW JERSEY



TEUS (TWENTY-FOOT EQUIVALENT UNITS) THAT MOVED THROUGH THE PORT OF NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 2023



\$4444.8B

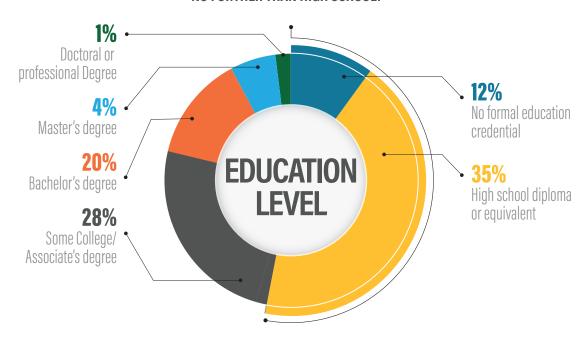
TOTAL VALUE OF FREIGHT EXPORTED FROM NEW JERSEY



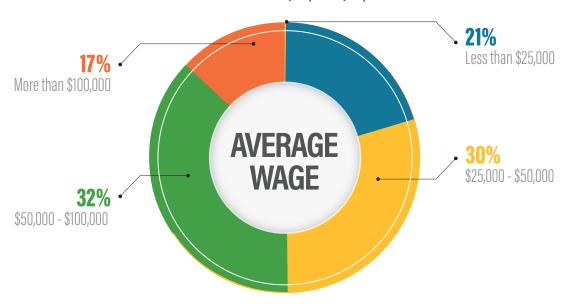
FOREIGN TRADE ZONES IN NEW JERSEY SUPPORTING THE STATE'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AVERAGE WAGE OF NJ RESIDENTS IN THE TLD SECTOR

MORE THAN 40% OF OCCUPATIONS WITHIN TLD INDUSTRY CLUSTER REQUIRE NO FURTHER THAN HIGH SCHOOL.



THE VAST MAJORITY OF NEW JERSEY'S TLD WORKERS EARN A SALARY BETWEEN \$30,000-\$49,999



Source: NJ DOL Custom Employment Data Report for NJMEP - Provided by Jason Timian Bureau Chief, Labor Market Information to author, April 21, 2025

PARTNERS















































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